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Period 5

20-24-13

1. Confessing to crime you didn’t commit in order to avoid punishment is wise.

In The Crucible, confessing to a crime that you did not commit does not result in the avoidance of punishment. On the contrary, you will still get punished for your offense. In today’s society, if you confess to a crime that you in fact did not commit, it can go either in your favor or against you. Not only can confessing to crime you did not commit affect you, but it can also affect others involved in or with the crime.

Confessing to crime you didn’t commit in order to avoid punishment can all depend on the situation. If you confess t a crime you did not commit to protect someone else’s wrongdoing, it might be considered wise. However, if you confess to a crime you did not commit, and you are maybe protecting a criminal or liar, that will do no good for the person. If you commit to a crime you know someone did not do, then there will be a positive reason for you to confess. Confessing to a crime to avoid someone else’s punishment that actually has committed the crime can not only be hurtful to you, but the other party involved and everyone around both of you.

When it comes to me, my opinion varies on the intelligence of confessing to a crime you did not commit. In my opinion, how wise it is to confess depends on the reason as to why you are confessing to a crime you did not commit. If someone confesses to a crime someone else committed simply to prevent the criminal from receiving the appropriate consequences because they know for certain that the person did not indeed commit the crime, I would find this offense wise. If ,for example, a mother was confessing to a crime her son committed to prevent him from going to prison because she knows that he is not guilty and is afraid the court might find the opposite, that is an enough reason to deem that wise because she is being self less and putting others welfare before her own.

On the other hand, if someone confessed to a crime they did not commit to simply protect themselves in not wise in my book. If a person confesses to a crime that they did not commit to save themselves from further punishment, I do not find that wise. On the contrary, I find it selfish and egotistic, because they are simply doing it for their own good and lying to protect themselves from the consequences of their actions. If someone, for example, is a suspect in a murder trial and commits to the crime to avoid going to jail, they are not doing it to be selfless, quite the reverse, they are being selfish and doing it to save themselves.

Confessing to a crime you did not commit to a void punishment can be both wise and unwise; it all depends on the situation.

2. The difference between right and wrong is clear.

Is there a difference between right and wrong? If you were to ask this question to everyone you knew, you would most likely not receive two of the same answer. Everyone's opinion varies on the difference between right and wrong. Our image of what is right and what is wrong all depends on how we were raised and others around us. A person's religion, culture, gender, and even race can all affect how a person views what is right and wrong.

There can be a clear difference between right and wrong. Stealing what you want from a store because you do not feel like paying for it is morally wrong. A person should clearly understand that stealing for your personal benefit is clearly wrong. However, even though some people may say that stealing is just all together wrong, others can argue that stealing to provide for your family because you cannot afford it can be acceptable. This is why, in my opinion, the difference between right and wrong is anything but clear, because it can all depend on the situation in which a person is put into.

Another way in which the difference between right and wrong are unclear to me is that everyone was raised with different beliefs. Because of a person's religion, culture, or environment, the difference between the two can be different because of these. If someone's religion tells them it is okay to break the law, or that following certain laws are against their religion, which of the two should they believe is right? Which should they believe is wrong?

The way a person was raised is also another important factor that plays into the question of right and wrong. If a person was raised by narcotic dealing parents, and are taught that it is "normal" and "okay" to do, what will cause them to question whether it is right or wrong? Where, in contrast, another family would be completely against that and say that it is immoral and against the law. The entertainment industry also as a big influence on what a person believes to be wrong and right. Many rappers today constantly rap about doing drugs and enjoying stealing cars and raping people, and those who listen to those people can be influenced by them and find all of these things normal, when others are disgusted by the thought of all of these things.

Finally, the definition right and the definition of wrong can also be unclear when you use wrong for the right reasons. For example, if you promised that under any circumstances you would never kill anyone, because you were raised that all humans are equal and killing someone is horrific, and it is against the law. However, if, for an example, you are in a situation where you need to defend yourself against someone who is threatening to take your life or the life of someone dear to you, you kill them to protect their life and your own. This would be an exception to the rule that killing someone is "wrong" because they are threatening the life of someone else, so you had no other option but to take action and defend yourself or another person.

A person's religion, culture, gender, and even race can all affect how a person views what is right and wrong. This is why I feel that there is no clear difference between the two.

3. It is better to die for what you believe in rather than to lie to save your life.

Many people live in lies, and others prefer to die for what they believe in. My response, however, is that it is better to die for what you believe in than to live a lie. If a person lives a lie, that lie will simply snowball into more lies that they didn’t expect to happen. It is nobler to die for what you believe in than to be selfish and lie for your own benefit. When you lie for your own good, those lies will continue to come and you will end up living a false life. In reality, who you really are figuratively “died” a long time ago. If you are not living your life expressing who you truly are and what you really believe in, you might as well not be alive. Most people would agree that they would rather die for standing up for what they believe in rather than dying as someone completely opposite of who they are.

To die with dignity is, in my opinion, better than dying in a pool of lies. For me, it is better die as a selfless person rather than live as a coward. A perfect example of someone who died for what they believe in is Jesus Christ. He died for what he believed in, and to those who believe in him, he is considered a hero. Generally, a person would rather die for what they believe in than be alive and living a huge lie. Lying is an easy way out, and standing up for what you believe in, no matter the consequence, even death, is something a brave and confident person would do.

Not only does standing up for what you believe in help you die on good terms, but it helps those who stay behind. It helps them realize that they have to stay firm on their beliefs and to not give up on anything. It makes those people realize that you have to live the life you want, and not the life that others want for you. If you lie, it is because others pressured you into doing or being something you do not believe in. When this happens, you leave the message behind that you should let others pressure you into being something you are not. A person should be proud of what you are, and not need to lie about it. If a person stands up for what they believe, and it means dying, I would rather die than live a lie.

Why would a person rather lie to save themselves, than to die for what they believe in? Staying alive as a completely untrue and false person simply makes your life more complicated. Dying for what you believe in leaves you with self-worth and others looking up to you for your bravery and confidence. , I would rather die with self-worth than with complication.

4. There is only one correct way to interpret the Bible.

There is no right answer to this question. Many people can argue that there is only one way to interpret it while others can argue that it is up to the reader and how they choose to interpret it. If there were only one correct way to interpret the Bible, then there would only be one religion existent in this world. I am sure that the writer of the Bible did not intend for there to be more than one interpretation of the Bible, but unfortunately, everyone has their own opinion nowadays, so everyone has the choice to interpret it as they choose.

With so many new religions being created every day, it is clear that not everyone has the same beliefs and interpretations o the Bible. If something as simple as a text message is misinterpreted nowadays, what makes you think the Bible is clearly understood universally? Maybe the writers of the Bible purposely wrote the Bible so open to interpretation because they actually wanted us to blossom our thoughts from the simple seeds they planted with it. It might simply be that there is no correct way to interpret it, except for the way you interpret it yourself. Everyone feels that the way they interpret the Bible is the correct way, when in reality is it wrong to someone else. Everyone has their own opinion when it comes to interpreting any written work or opinion.

Due to the fact that the writers of this work are all deceased, there is no correct answer as to what the book meant. Usually, if you do not understand a homework assignment or a paper someone wrote, you go to the person who published it to fully understand what that writing actually meant. Since there is no way to ask what the book meant, everyone has a full chance to establish their own opinion on what they think the Bible means.

When a writer writes a piece of work, they write it using their own interpretations of the main ideas in the book, but they do not expect everyone who reads it to interpret it the exact way they did. A person's beliefs, culture, religion, and even upbringing can all affect the way in which the reader interprets the Bible. No one can tell you that your opinion is wrong, because it is your opinion, and you have the choice to believe it, just like others have their own rights to believe what they choose to believe. Experiences that a person has gone through can also affect the way in which we choose to interpret the bible. For example, if a song says" he dumped me", the listener might have gotten "dumped" by her boyfriend, so she relates to the song. The way in which a person interprets the Bible all depends on what they believe. There is not a clear way to interpret it.

5. That which doesn’t destroy us only makes us stronger.

This statement is a very powerful and meaningful statement. These are words that you cannot cease to hear in today's society. I am a firm believer that what doesn’t "destroy" us absolutely makes us stronger. Although at first we may think it is the end of the world and we will not be able to recuperate from it, in the long run it helps us grow as a person. Situations we go through in our lives can either make us or break us, and it all depends on us as to which of the two will happen.

Not only does it make us stronger, but it makes us more aware of our surroundings and the positivity in life. How you react to the obstacles that life throws at you is what affects you. If you let it ruin you, and you become inconsiderate and depressed, you will never learn the lesson you were meant to learn. If you choose to face these problems with a brave and selfless face, then you will most likely gain something positive from a negative situation. I hear many people ask how something constructive can come out of something so harmful. The constructive aspect does not come until you fully accept was has happened and move on from it.

Another belief that is similar to this is that "everything happens for a reason". I am a firm believer that everything, in fact, does happen for a reason. Even though things such as death, illness, or separation can seem so dark and hopeless, there is a reason as to why they happen. For example, around the age of twelve, I went through many life-changing things in my life, but I would not be the person I am today and know what I know if it were not for those experiences I went through. Those experiences taught me to value life and take it a day at a time, because we never know what is going to happen tomorrow.

Due to things such as these, I am a strong believer that what does not tear you down simply raises you higher. Not everything in life is meant to be all rainbows and sunshine, because if it were we would have such dull lives and never learn or grow as human beings. These experiences are thrown our way, whether we like it or not, at the worst times in our lives, but we later learn that it was not to annoy or destroy us, but so simply teach us something we did not know before.

Negative experiences teach us to appreciate and value what we do have, and to let the little things in life go. It teaches us to enjoy life for what it is, and not worry about tomorrow, because we do not know if it will come. What does not destroy us DOES make us stronger.

6. It’s more difficult to forgive yourself if the person you have hurt doesn’t forgive you.

Have you ever done something wrong and never gotten the words" I forgive you" spoken back to you? When you do something wrong to someone close to you or hurt them, you feel this pain slowly start to build up indie of you and you start to regret the decision you made. You would do anything to take it back, and for the person you hurt to forgive you. There is this guilt that is slowly eating you from the core out, and unless you are forgiven, you cannot go on.

If someone does not forgive you for the wrong doing you did to them, that guilt will continue to hurt you until it is resolved. Eventually, you start to not be able to forgive yourself, and will not awaiting the other person forgiving you first. You are not able to live with you actions without the other person letting you know that they accept what you did to them and pardon you for your actions. It is difficult enough dealing with the hurt you have put on them, but not knowing whether they forgive you or not is an even harder feeling.

That person not forgiving you also affects how you act around them. It makes you more cautious of your actions towards them, and make sure to be nothing but kind to them. You try to suppress your actions by overwhelming them with love and compassion. You do this because you cannot stand the thought that they might resent you for hurting you because they have never done such a thing to you. You cannot forgive yourself for your actions because they are yet to forgive you.

In this situation, you try to think of any possible solution that can make everything normal again. It kills you that they have not been able to warm up to you again. You did not intentionally try to hurt them, but it came out that way so you are stuck in this predicament until they make a decision to forgive you or not. You just want to reconcile with the person, and you wish it never happened. Unfortunately, it did, and they are constantly reminding you of the harm you made to them. All you wish is for the person to realize you did not intend to hurt them, and simply did not realize the severity of your actions.

Without receiving forgiveness, you sort of carry unnecessary emotional baggage that you cannot let go of until they excuse your actions. Living with the guilt makes it even harder for you to forgive yourself, because you are constantly reminded of what you did wrong. It is indeed more difficult to forgive yourself if the person you have hurt doesn’t forgive you.

7. Courage means doing something even though it can be difficult and fearsome.

 I agree with the statement “courage means doing something even though it can be difficult and fearsome". When a hero is defined, the word courageous never fails to be spoken. Courage is doing for others and not caring if there can be a negative outcome for yourself. A courageous person is the type to be selfless and brave. Firefighters, policemen, and the military are all great examples of courageous people. Every day they out their lives in danger for the safety of others.  Police officers risk their lives every day to protect citizens of the community from danger, and firemen have to go into a burning building to save other people.

Although all of these examples are courageous, courage can also be defined as taking a leap of faith. If you decide to try a new food, or a new perfume or cologne, you are still being courageous. A courageous person is simply a person that is willing to do more than what they have done before, or more than what others choose to do. Courage is a also a very important characteristic to have when facing your fears and standing up for yourself. You must have courage to do things such as speak in front of large crowds, face your fear of heights, or even walk into a dark room; if darkness is one of your fears, of course.

There is a quote that Rollo May once said and that is" Courage is not the absence of despair; it is, rather, the capacity to move ahead in spite of despair." This quote is a perfect example of my opinion on courage. A courageous person knows the negative outcome of an action they are going to attempt, but attempt it anyway because there will be good in it for others. Someone who chooses to put others safety before their own and refuse to sit around on the sidelines and not do anything about it, and, instead, make a difference and fight. Doctors and surgeons also have courage because they go into the office everyday knowing that they have to give certain medical advice or certain procedures to and on their patients, and if their advice or procedure is incorrect, then they can risk killing them.

Courage would not be courage if it were not for being scared or cautious in the first place. If you commit any of these actions without having these premonitions, then you simply are confident and not courageous. Courage is accepting your fears and learning to overcome them. Courage is an act based upon strength. When a person has courage they act upon it because they believe in it and they want things to work out for others around them.

8. A person is innocent until proven guilty.

One of the first things you hear when you tune into a show like” CSI” or “Law and Order” is that “a person is innocent until proven guilty”. Some argue that it is simply a method of justice, and others argue that it means fairness. Many say this because a person is never fully named guilty of a crime until there is enough evidence and testimony to say so. Some people have certain opinions as to how a person is really proven guilty, and if the court system is reliable and stable enough to believe.

A person cannot simply be convicted of a crime without first being examined. If a person does not commit a crime and they are simply assumed to be guilty, there could be a criminal still on the loose and no one would know because there is someone else convicted for the crime they committed. That is why I agree with the statement that a person is innocent until proven guilty. Everyone has their own opinions and beliefs, and because of this, the court system was established to avoid any bias or prejudice towards suspects of a crime.

A person who is convicted of a crime has the right to defend themselves and prove they did not commit the crime before they are simply thrown in jail because others believe they did it. In some cases, there are those who do indeed admit they are guilty of a crime, so there is no need to prove them guilty, because they admitted it themselves. That term is derived to prove that someone did commit the crime, instead of simply pointing fingers. The phrase does not mean that a person is simply not innocent; it just means they are innocent unless proven otherwise. Just because someone says you might be guilty of committing a crime does not mean you actually did commit it, you were just tied to the offense somehow.

In The Crucible, the society in Salem in which Arthur Miller writes about believes the opposite. They believe that a person is guilty until proven innocent. They feel that they can trust no one and their only way to keep organization and structure in their society is to deem everyone guilty unless they can prove otherwise. Many so called” witches” who practice witchcraft are considered guilty simply because someone else wants to save themselves so they throw others under the bus.

If our society did not have this rule that a person is innocent until they are proven guilty, many innocent people, indeed, would be convicted of crimes they did not commit. I believe that this rule is important because without it we would have utter chaos and would not have a justice system. I highly agree with the statement that a person is innocent is proven guilty.

9. Beliefs in opposition to common values should be illegal.

I completely disagree with the statement above. A person has a right to believe what they want to believe. The Fifth Amendment of the Constitution states that we have a freedom of speech. We have the choice to believe whatever we choose to, and no one should be allowed to dictate otherwise. As easily as a person has a choice of what to wear for the day, they should be allowed to believe what they desire. Telling someone not to believe in their opinions is like telling Rosa Parks not to sit in the front of the bus, and telling Martin Luther King Jr. not to drink from the water fountain at the park.

A person has the right to oppose the values of others, as easily as others have the right to oppose theirs. There is no right answer to the opinions of others. Religion, culture, and race all have big impacts on what a person believes. It is easy to say that not all Christians and Puritans are going to believe in the same exact thing, because we have the right to believe in our own emotions. If everybody would believe in the equivalent things, our world would be dull.

As a person, you have the right to think and believe anything you feel. Why would anyone want to conform to the beliefs of others and choose not to believe whatever they want? You should always have the right to believe what you desire, and no one should be able to tell you that you cannot. A person should be able to speak what they choose, and should also be acknowledged. If everyone agrees that others may not have the same opinions as you, then there would be no problem in the world regarding the idea of common values. Even though some people may believe murder is okay, and others may not, who are we to tell them they are wrong? Why should a person have to be thrown into prison simply because they oppose the beliefs of others. By reducing your opinions about what you are likely to hear, your decisions are bound to turn out differently. It is how we deal with these differences that can cause people to oppose to your choices. Our country and everything it is made up of is built off of the idea of freedom. If our country is built off of freedom, why would we not be allowed to freely express our opinions? As American citizens we are capable to practice our own religions and beliefs as we please. Telling a person to stop believing what they do is unlawful. Human beings were scientifically made to believe and act as they choose, and they were also created to know the potential reactions of others to their beliefs. I believe that beliefs in opposition to common values should be anything BUT illegal.

10. Justice is best determined in a court of law.

In a court of law, justice is not always determined best. Even though the court tries the best that it can, sometimes justice is not always served. If there is not enough evidence to convict a rapist, a murderer, or a robber, then they are set free. It is not the courts fault that the justice was not brought, but it still was not served. The court abides by certain rules and regulations that prevent them from brining justice to those who need it at times. Justice is defined as “the process or result of using laws to fairly judge and punish crimes and criminals”. This definition includes the words “using the laws” which is why many people can relate to my idea that justice is not best determined in a court of law.

Because of the fact that the judge in a courtroom has to comply to these rules, the justice is not always served. According to the law, the justice is served in every trial as long as they follow the law. Even though the laws were created to find justice, the laws are also the main cause of injustice. A perfect example of injustice is the Treyvon Martin case, where a security guard, George Zimmerman, felt uneasy about Treyvon’s presence, so he shot and killed him. Martin did not harass or provoke him I any way, but Zimmerman shot him in supposed “self-defense”. The court found Zimmerman not guilty of the murder of Martin because he pleaded the “self-defense” card. This trial recently sparked controversy and question in the court system because to most people it was clear that Treyvon was murdered.

Many people nowadays can say that they have either had injustice in a courtroom themselves, or know someone that did not receive justice. This injustice is because of the plain fact that the court resides on cold-hard facts and the law. The other main reason why the court does not always serve justice is because of the lawyers. Some lwayers are more worried about cashing their check than actually trying to represent and defend their client. Because of this, some innocent people get misrepresented and in turn get proven guilty to a crime they did not commit.

The court system has many holes. This is why justice is not always served. The law and lawyers who misrepresent their clients are all reasons as to why the court of law does not always best determine justice. The court of law simply determines whether the criminal in question is innocent or guilty according to the law. It does not take into account the situation and the surroundings and other things in question. They focus on the hard facts and nothing else. The court of law is not the best place to determine justice.